

Introduced by Senator Dunn

February 22, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27— Relative to drowsy driver awareness day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 27, as introduced, Dunn. Drowsy Driver Awareness Day.

This measure would proclaim April 6, 2005, as Drowsy Driver Awareness Day, request the Governor to make a similar proclamation, designate the state's observance of April 6 of the following years as a memorial day for those people who have died as a result of a collision involving a drowsy driver, and request the Department of the California Highway Patrol to endeavor to provide related educational brochures.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, From 1993 to 2003, according to statistics
2 compiled by the Department of the California Highway Patrol,
3 approximately 100 people were killed each year in California in
4 collisions where a drowsy driver was involved; and
5 WHEREAS, In that 10-year period, 41,228 people have been
6 injured in California in collisions where a drowsy driver was
7 involved; and
8 WHEREAS, In that 10-year period, there were 28,533
9 collisions involving a drowsy driver where no one was injured,
10 but significant property damage occurred; and
11 WHEREAS, All of these fatalities, injuries, and property
12 damage could have been avoided; and
13 WHEREAS, A 1999 poll by the National Sleep Foundation
14 discovered that 62 percent of all adults surveyed reported driving

1 a car or other motor vehicle while feeling drowsy in the prior
2 year; and

3 WHEREAS, The same poll revealed that 27 percent of the
4 adults reported that they had, at some time, dozed off while
5 driving; and

6 WHEREAS, This poll also found that 23 percent of adults
7 stated that they know someone who experienced a fall-asleep
8 crash within the past year; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States National Highway Traffic
10 Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that approximately
11 100,000 police-reported crashes annually, that is about 1.5
12 percent of all crashes, involve drowsiness or fatigue as a
13 principal causal factor; and

14 WHEREAS, At least 71,000 people are injured in fall-asleep
15 crashes each year; and, NHTSA estimates these crashes represent
16 \$12,500,000 in monetary losses each year; and

17 WHEREAS, Many more people die each year from crashes
18 related to drowsy, sleepy, or fatigued drivers than from many
19 serious illnesses; and

20 WHEREAS, Many California residents die each year,
21 including Robyn Meryl Amsel Mellon Konstantin, who died in a
22 collision on April 6, 1999, while driving when she was drowsy;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, This problem can affect every person who
25 operates or rides in a motor vehicle, or who walks, stands, or sits
26 near a roadway; and

27 WHEREAS, This problem can be solved by making drivers
28 aware of the risks of driving without adequate rest; now
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
31 *thereof concurring*, That April 6, 2005, is hereby proclaimed by
32 the Legislature as Drowsy Driver Awareness Day, and be it
33 further

34 *Resolved*, That the Governor is requested to make a similar
35 proclamation; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That this measure be adopted with urgency as this
37 April 6th marks the sixth anniversary of the death of California
38 resident Robyn Meryl Amsel Mellon Konstantin who died in
39 1999 on that date; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That April 6th of every year after this resolution is
2 enacted be designated as a memorial day to observe the
3 importance of educating the public on drowsy driving, and to
4 remember those thousands of Californians who have died in
5 collisions related to drowsy driving; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the observance of Drowsy Driver Awareness
7 Day emphasize the preventability of all crashes related to drowsy
8 driving, and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That, in their observance, the Department of the
10 California Highway Patrol endeavor to provide special
11 educational brochures for the public and educational advisories
12 for the media as to the problem of drowsy driving and methods to
13 avoid this problem; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of
15 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution and to the
16 Governor.